



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

February 04, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**PROPOSED 2014 LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CODE,
TITLE 32 (FIRE) AND CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES
COUNTY FIRE CODE
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Fire Department and the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) requests approval of the proposed ordinance amending the County Fire Code (Title 32) which adopts by reference, with certain changes and amendments, the 2013 California Fire Code, the 2012 International Fire Code, and adopts Title 32 as the Fire Code for the District. The ordinance also adopts certain more stringent building standards and makes the required findings that these are necessary due to local climatic, geological, and/or topographical conditions in the County.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
DISTRICT AND AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Introduce, waive reading, and schedule a public hearing for February 25, 2014, regarding the attached ordinance, amending Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code and adopting Title 32 as the Fire Code for the District.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD, ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
DISTRICT AND AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Find that the attached ordinance is exempt under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b) (3).
2. Find that the proposed changes and modifications to building standards contained in the 2013

California Fire Code are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, and/or topographical conditions in the County and District, as detailed in the ordinance.

3. Adopt the ordinance and establish the operative date as February 27, 2014.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The enclosed ordinance, when adopted, will update and set forth provisions and regulations for the enforcement of Title 32 within the unincorporated areas of the County and in the cities served by the District.

This code update cycle occurs every three years when the State adopts new building standards that require cities, counties, and fire districts to update their codes to conform to the new State Fire Code. The California Health and Safety Code requires that the County adopt the same building standards as those contained in the California Building Standards Code with the exception that the County may establish more restrictive building standards reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geologic, and/or topographic conditions. Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 requires that all County amendments, together with the State Building Standards Code, become effective 180 days after the publication of the State Building Standards Code. It is recommended that your Honorable Board establish the operative date of the ordinance to be February 27, 2014.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the proposed ordinance is consistent with Los Angeles County Strategic Plan Goal Number 3, Integrated Service Delivery, to maximize opportunities to measurably improve client and community outcomes and leverage resources through the continuous integration of health, community, and public safety services.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be minimal fiscal impact necessitated by training staff and implementing the new requirements in the fire code. Costs associated with such efforts will be covered by the District's existing and anticipated budget, or will be recovered from review and permit fees.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The ordinance amending Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code has been approved as to form by County Counsel, and an analysis is enclosed.

The proposed ordinance adopts by reference the 2013 California Fire Code, which incorporates by adoption the 2012 edition of the International Fire Code, and adds amendments that address the unique conditions existing in Los Angeles County. This ordinance repeals certain sections of Title 32 and the incorporation of the 2010 California Fire Code and the 2009 International Fire Code. All sections that are not repealed remain unchanged and in full force and effect. Many of the sections that are not repealed involve existing fees which all remain unchanged. The proposed ordinance also adopts Title 32 as the Fire Code for the District.

In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 50022.3, your

Honorable Board must schedule a public hearing after the first reading of the title of the adopting ordinance. Notices of the hearing shall be published pursuant to Government Code Section 6066. Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 13869.7, a copy of the proposed ordinance amending Title 32 adopted must be on file with the Executive Office of the Board at least 15 days preceding the public hearing. A copy of the 2013 California State Fire Code and 2012 International Fire Code, which are both being incorporated by reference into Title 32, have also been provided to the Executive Office of the Board.

State law allows the County and District to adopt more restrictive building standards that are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. All of the amendments that constitute more restrictive building standards that are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions in the County of Los Angeles. Pursuant to State law, express findings for each amendment based upon climatic, geological, or topographical conditions are included in a table at the end of the ordinance listing the sections in the ordinance that are considered more restrictive building standards and makes the required findings that are necessary. The ordinance also contains various administrative changes that do not require any local findings.

Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 13869.7, the District sent the cities served by the District a copy of the proposed ordinance 30 days before the notice of the public hearing was published seeking public comments. Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 13869.7, the cities in the District may ratify, modify, or deny a fire protection district's adoption of more restrictive building standards. District amendments that are more restrictive building standards must be ratified by the city in order for those amendments to be enforceable within the city's jurisdiction. Following approval by your Honorable Board, the District will work with each of the cities it serves to adopt and implement the new District Fire Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Adoption of this ordinance which amends Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code is exempt under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b).

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Other departments will be required to comply with the provisions of the ordinance once it is operative. The revisions to Title 32 contain considerable changes to fire and life safety provisions and building standards which could affect enforcement requirements of local municipalities. An informational letter, summary of primary changes, and a copy of the proposed ordinance, including the findings related to the adoption of more restrictive building standards, was sent to all of the cities served by the District on December 10, 2013, for their review and comment.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Board, please electronically submit a Statement of Proceedings to the following:

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Executive Office

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

2/4/2014

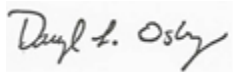
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Business Operations

Acting Chief Deputy Mark J. Bennett

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daryl L. Osby". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

DARYL L. OSBY

FIRE CHIEF, FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

DLO:yh

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel